

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
MAIL STOP AF

Atty. Docket No. 2788 (203-2854)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Roby, et al. EXAMINER: J.K. Michener
SERIAL NO.: 09/964,901 GROUP: 1762
FILED: September 27, 2001 DATED: June 21, 2004
FOR: **SILICONIZED SURGICAL
NEEDLES AND METHODS FOR
THEIR MANUFACTURE**

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 19, 2004, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

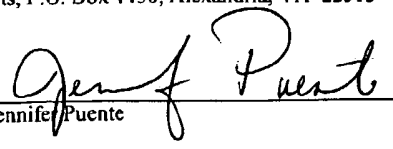
Amendments to the Claims are set forth on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 21, 2004.

Dated: June 21, 2004


Jennifer Puente

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